GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:173
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2016
Sand Stowing
Singh Dr. Prabhas Kumar

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether sand stowing of various underground coal mines in the country has been undertaken and evaluated, if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the coal-mining companies are liable for not undertaking sand stowing as per stipulations, if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the corrective action taken by the Government in this regard;
(c) whether possibility of man-made earthquakes has been evaluated on account of improper sand stowing of coal mines, particularly in seismic zone-lll; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER AND NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 173 FOR 05.05.2016

(a):Coal is extracted mainly by Bord and Pillar technology underground mines. In thismethod, initially a mine is developed forming coal pillars and subsequently coal pillars are extracted either though caving method or by stowing method where surface structures are to be protected over the mined out areas. In case of stowing method, sand is filled in the voids created by extraction of coal from underground mines. Details of subsidiary-wise stowing done in 2015-16 in various companies of Coal India Limited are given as below:

S. No. Name of company Quantity of sand stowed (m3)
1 ECL 1848529
2 BCCL 117436
3 CCL 22781
4 WCL 859754

(b): Sand Stowing is needed when surface features are required to be protected and is considered as activity related to safety. Any extraction of coal pillars earlier by caving or by stowing method can only be done after getting permission from Directorate General of Mines Safety(DGMS). Regular inspections of mine workings are being done by officials of DGMS and the officials are empowered to take actions for not undertaking sand stowing as per the approved conditions. The owner/Agent/Manager of the mine has to furnish monthly statement of quantity of sand stowed.

(c)& (d): There is no record of man-made earthquake so far in underground mines. As such, no such study has been undertaken so far.

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